IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A time-to-contact estimate determination system for generating an estimate as to the time-to-contact of a vehicle moving along a roadway with an obstacle comprising:

A. an image receiver configured to receive image information relating to a series of at least two images as the vehicle moves along a roadway; and characterized by

B. a processor configured to determine a scaling factor that defines a ratio between a dimension ~~dimensions~~ of the obstacle in a first one of the at least two images and the same dimension of the obstacle in a second one of the at least two images and uses the ratio to generate a time-to-contact estimate of the vehicle with the obstacle.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ system according to claim 1 wherein the scaling factor defines a ratio between vertical dimensions of the obstacle in the images and uses the ratio to estimate the time-to-contact.

3. (Currently Amended) A system ~~method~~ according to claim 1 wherein the scaling factor defines a ratio between horizontal dimensions of the obstacle in the images and uses the ratio to estimate the time-to-contact.

4. (Currently Amended) A system ~~method~~ according to claim 1 wherein the at least two images comprises more than two images.

5. (Currently Amended) A system ~~method~~ according to claim 4 wherein the processor processes the image information to determine a lateral displacement of the object relative to a position of the vehicle.

6. (Currently Amended) A system ~~method~~ according to clam 5 wherein the processor determines a likelihood of collision responsive to whether or not the lateral displacement substantially uniformly approaches zero.

a ratio between a dimension of the obstacle in a first one of the at least one image and the same dimension of the obstacle in a second one of the at least one image

7. (New) A system according to claim 1 wherein the processor generates a time-to-contact T in accordance with the expression $T = [1/(S-1)]\Delta T$ where S is the scaling factor and ΔT is a time lapse between two images of the at least two images.